

Letter Progress Report #11

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Minerals Management Service
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Contract No. 1435-01-04-34396

Dear Barry,

This Letter Progress Report (LPR) provides a summary of activities undertaken on the MMS study entitled *World-Wide Survey of Dredging Impacts on Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Analysis of Available Mitigation Measures to Protect and Preserve Resources* for the period June 30th through till 16th August 2006.

This report represents the final bi-monthly progress report scheduled for this project, as we expect to deliver the final project report to MMS by mid November 2006. Therefore, we have expanded on the usual format of these reports in order to provide MMS not only with a summary of what work has been done in this reporting period, but a clear timeline for the remaining phase of the study.

As you will note from the attached Appendix, much of the work undertaken in the last reporting period has been carried out in relation to the US analogue sites. The majority of work on the UK site has been undertaken previously and has been reported on in previous progress reports.

Information is provided against the following headings.

- (1) status of deliverables;
- (2) budget status report summary;
- (3) problems encountered and resolution status; and
- (4) planned activities for the subsequent reporting period.

(1) Status of Deliverables

A summary of work undertaken each Task Heading is provided below. In order to provide a more detailed overview of work undertaken to date, a separate progress report is also enclosed.

Task 1 (World-wide Literature Search):

As per Progress Report #10 - The world-wide literature search has been completed and a summary report produced. This will be included in the final project report as an Annex (see Task 7 for further details on final report).

Task 2 (Government Regulations Identification).

The identification of government regulations relevant to marine sand mining has been completed and will be fully reported in the final project report.

Task 3 (Spatial Conflict Maps)

The project team has produced spatial conflict maps for the 2 US analogue sites. These show the distribution of fishing activity by gear type and species, plus other uses in these areas. These maps have been overlain with the proposed borrow areas to show the degree of spatial conflict that potentially exists in these areas.

With respect to the UK site, similar maps have been begun in the last reporting period. As per the US studies, these will show fishing activity by gear type and species in and around the HSB site, as well as including actual dredging intensity data from the currently active licence site and the areas of proposed dredging (current EIA application being managed by EMU Ltd).

In order to reflect the spatial pressures faced by aggregate developers in the UK, other users in this area are also mapped, including recreational and commercial shipping routes, military exercise areas, cables and pipelines etc.

Task 4 (Site Visits to Fishing, Industry and Government Interests).

Site visits to representatives of the fishing industry, dredging industry and government interests have been undertaken previously and reported in earlier progress reports.

Task 5 and 6 (Fieldwork aboard fishing and dredging vessels).

No specific fieldwork has been undertaken at the second US analogue site during this reporting period as this element of the study has now been completed. The data from all US-based fieldwork has been written up and incorporated into the draft report.

Tasks 7 to 9 (Draft and Final Report)

The overall draft final report is currently being collated by the project team. This is based upon data collected from the two US analogue sites and also the UK site (Hastings Shingle Bank). A draft of this report is due to be available for internal review within the next 14 days. Upon completion of this internal review, the draft document will be issued to MMS for review and comment, with a suitable timescale for return to the project team so we can incorporate all MMS comments into a final report (please see proposed project timeline below).

Task 10 (Submission of paper to scientific journal or technical journal)

At this stage of the project, we propose that once the final draft report has been accepted by MMS, the project team will distill the key findings of the report into a draft scope for a scientific paper. We would welcome comment from MMS as to their degree of involvement in this process but as a project team, we feel it would be beneficial if any paper that emerged from this study was jointly authored by the project team and MMS representatives.

We are happy to discuss a potential approach to this task at your convenience.

Task 11 (Presentation at Conference)

John Petterson has already attended and presented data from this study at a MMS conference in Florida during June 2006. However, Emu Ltd also intend to present the findings of this study at a UK-based conference, should the key findings/paper (see Task 10), be accepted by relevant conference organisers. We would welcome feedback from MMS as to whether they deem it appropriate to present the findings from this study at a UK-based conference. We would change the focus of any UK conference presentation to discuss the Hasting Bansk dredging/fishing interaction in more detail, as this would be more relevant to UK audiences.

Task 11 (Project Management)

During this reporting period, the project team has held telephone meetings to discuss outstanding actions on the project as well as overall project status. There has also been regular e-mail correspondence between project team members.

(2) Budget Status Report Summary

No invoice is attached for this reporting period. A full, up-to-date cost summary and project invoice will be submitted along with the draft project report to MMS.

(3) Problems Encountered and Resolution Status

No problems have been encountered during this reporting period.

(4) Planned Activities

The proposed project timeline from August 16th to November 15th (project end) is provided below.

We look forward to your review of this Letter Progress Report. Please let me know if additional information or clarification is required.

Yours Sincerely,

Bruce Tomlinson, Ph.D.
Program Manager

cc: Sharon Teger (CO, MMS Headquarters)

Proposed Project Timescale for Period 15th August to 15th November 2006

August 22nd 2006:	Submission of final project progress report to MMS
September 8th 2006:	Completion of internal draft report
September 8th - 15th 2006:	Internal report review
September 15th 2006:	Issue of draft report to MMS for review and comment
Sept 15th to Oct 13th 2006:	Review period for MMS
October 13th 2006:	Return of report with comments from MMS
Oct 13th to Nov 17th 2006:	Final review period for Emu Ltd/IAI Project Team
November 17th 2006:	Issue of final report to MMS